



Some practical information:

The meeting location

The meeting will be held on Thursday the 25th of April and Friday the 26th of April at Axxell Ekenäs (<http://www.axxell.fi/sv/enheter/axxell-ekenaes2.html>). The address to Axxell Ekenäs is Raseborgsvägen 5, 10600 Ekenäs, Finland. As there is no restaurant at school we will eat at a lunch restaurant nearby.



The accommodation



During the project meeting we will be staying at Motel Marine (<http://www.motelmachine.fi/>). Motel Marine is located in the city centre of Ekenäs very close to the old town of Ekenäs, the harbor, the market square and it is only a 10 minute walk from the Motell Marine to Axxell Ekenäs (see attachment 1). All rooms have television, telephone, toilet, shower and wireless internet. The Motel Marine offers a few rooms where you are allowed to smoke so if you want such a room, please let me know as soon as possible. I will also be staying at the Motel Marine during the project meeting.

Transport

At the Airport

Bus

From Helsinki Vantaa airport you can travel comfortably to the Helsinki railway station by either **Helsinki City bus number 615** (<http://aikataulut.ytv.fi/linjat/en/s615.html>) or by **Finnair City Bus** (http://www.finnair.com/finnaircom/wps/wcm/resources/file/ebf1760126ea0fa/FINNAIR_CITY_BUS_TIMETABLE.pdf). The bus stops are located both outside terminal 1 and terminal 2. The journey takes approximately 35 minutes. On Finnair City bus you can pay with both cash and credit cards, Helsinki City bus on the other hand only accepts cash.

Taxi

The taxi journey from the airport to the train station takes about 30 minutes and costs about 35 - 40 €. The taxi station is located outside the arrival areas of the terminal 1 and 2.



Car rental

There are 5 international car rental companies (AVIS, Hertz, Europcar, Budget and Sixt) at Helsinki Vantaa Airport. Service desks of these car rental companies are located in the corridors between

At the train station

Take the train from Helsinki to Karjaa. The journey takes approximately 1 hour. You can buy your tickets here: <http://www.vr.fi/eng/> a few months before departure. As an attachment you can find the timetables for the trains. The current timetable will change in January, but usually the changes are minimal!

There are 3 different types of tickets sold on the net:

1. The Advance tickets for all domestic long-distance journeys. You can buy Advance tickets online 60-7 days before the journey. These tickets are a little bit cheaper but you cannot change these tickets!
2. Basic ticket is the most common train ticket which entitles you to travel in Eco Class. These tickets cannot be changed!
3. Flexible ticket replaced the Business Class ticket but is less expensive. The Flexible ticket entitles you to travel in Extra Class. This tickets can be changed up to 1 day after departure.

Apart from these tickets you can buy the tickets at the railway station, the prize is the same as if you buy a basic ticket on the net. However, if you are planning to take a train from Helsinki to Karis at 16.02 or at 17.02 I strongly advice you to buy a Flexible ticket as this would guarantee you a ticket and seat on the train. These trains are usually sold out if you plan to buy them about 30 minutes before departure.

In Karis you will be picked up by either me, Charlotta or Beatrice. We will then drive you to Motell Marine in Ekenäs where you will be staying. On departure you will have to take the train from Ekenäs to Helsinki, which means that you will have to change trains in Karis. The first train on Saturday morning leaves at 7.05 a.m from Ekenäs (Tammisaari) and arrives in Helsinki at 8.25 a.m

The Weather

In spring, the daily temperature rises from 0°C to 10°C. Spring begins in early April in the southwestern archipelago where Ekenäs. Thus, spring begins a month earlier in the south than in the north. Its duration ranges from 45 to 65 days, being longest in the maritime islands and coastal





regions, because of the coolness of the sea. Once the daily temperature exceeds 5 °C, the thermal growing season is considered to have begun. This takes place about one month after the beginning of spring: at the end of April in southern Finland and at the end of May in northernmost Lapland.

For the real growing season to begin the snow must melt; this depends on the amount of snow, elevation and the position of the region relative to the sea. Open areas lose their snow cover within two to three weeks of the beginning of spring, whereas on average the snow in the forest melts about two weeks later. The lakes usually become ice-free soon after the growing season begins in April in southwestern Finland.

Please bring an umbrella with you as it is very likely to rain in April, in fact if it will not rain it will be a bit of a miracle.

Location

Ekenäs + Karis = Raseborg - new town, old traditions

Raseborg (Raasepori in Finnish) is a new town created on January 1st 2009 from the towns Ekenäs and Karis and the district of Pojo. There are about 29 000 inhabitants in the entire Raseborg. The inhabitants in Raseborg speak Swedish (about 50 %) and Finnish (about 50 %). Raseborg has an amazing archipelago with about 1300 islands as well as a number of well-preserved ironworks.

Raseborg is a real gold mine for everyone interested in history - we have plenty of sights, memorials and museums. There are also castles, fortresses and centuries-old churches in Raseborg. In addition, the city boasts more modern architecture, for example work by the world-famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Another famous artist, Helene Schjerfbeck, lived and painted in Ekenäs for over twenty years.



The Old Town of Ekenäs was originally built to be a fisherman's village. The Swedish King Gustav Vasa granted city charters to only two towns in the 16th century, Ekenäs and Helsinki, intending for them to compete with Revel (today's Tallinn) which was flourishing on the other side of the Gulf of Finland. The oldest remaining houses in Ekenäs Old Town date from the 18th century, and carry the echo of long-vanished trades in their romantic-sounding names:

"Hat Makers' Street", "Cloth Weavers' Street", "Glove Makers' Street", "Leather Makers' Street" and "Smith's Street". The oldest group of buildings can be found at Linväwaregatan (Linen Weaver's Street).

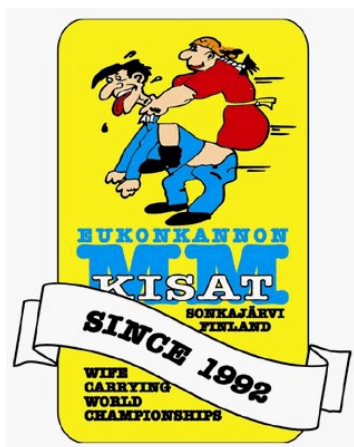


“Rumour Mirrors” (small mirrors attached to the outside of windows that enable the inhabitants to observe everything that takes place in the street outside. Trust me, we are very curious by nature here!), the elegantly crafted and decorated glass verandahs and the beautifully-made cobblestones all contribute their own piquant flavor to the atmosphere of Ekenäs Old Town.

The buildings of the Old Town, from Raatihuoneentori to the South bay, are still in good condition with well-tended gardens and there are people living in every house, while over everything looms the impressive tower of Ekenäs’ grey stone church. The distinctive names of the quarters, such as Bleak (a type of fish) Whalefish, Herring and Wild Pig, along with the old-style street lamps, gives an extra spice to the face of the Old Town.

Some useful and not so useful information about Finland and us Finns!

- Finland has about 5 milion inhabitants, out of these about 291 000 has Swedish as their native language
- Finns are very silent people. There is a finnish saying that unless you don't have anything important to say it is better not to say anything at all.



- Finland has more lakes
(187.888 lakes with a minimum size of 500 square meters)
than any other country in the world.
- We have the highest number of mobile phones per capita
(even some of our dogs have their own mobile phones)
- Finland is the only country that can boast with permanent
world records in wife carrying
- The Finnish people does not consist of a homogenous
society of 5 million, it comprised the descendants of no less
than 5 different ethnic groups:
 - o Slow and stubborn people from Häme
 - o The most sentimental of Finns; the Karelians
 - o Sly people from Savo
 - o Self-assured Ostrobothnians
 - o The Lapps
- The Finnish Language is the oldest language in Europe. Here comes some examples of the inherent beauty of the Finnish language:



- *“Älä räökkää sitä kissaa! – Emmä räökkääkkään! (= Don't torment the cat! – I am not tormenting it!)*
- *Äänetön yökkönen ryömi äänisuppiloon ja synnytti ämyrissä äärettömyyksiin rämpivän äänivyöryn” (= The silent moth crawled into the gramophone horn and created a soundwave that trudged to eternity)*
- A few examples of Finnish proverbs:
 - Siberia will teach you
 - A wife is a poor man's farm-hand
 - The sea has eyes and the forest has ears
 - Once uttered, the word won't return to the mouth
- The chimneyless sauna is the oldest and the most genuine prototype of the Finnish sauna
- The One and Only Genuine Santa Clause lives in Finnish Lapland, in Korvatunturi
- Finnish Lapland is as big as Belgium, Holland and Switzerland put together. In Lapland the sun will not set at all between 17 May and 28 July, this is called the midnight sun. On the other hand in the winter season the sun might be down for as long as 51 one days. Even if there is no sun you can see ahead because of the moonlight



Velkomin Ekenäs, Bienvenue à Ekenäs, Welkom bij Ekenäs, Welcome to Ekenäs, Croeso i Ekenäs, Velkommen til Ekenäs, Tervetuloa Tammisaareen